

RESOLUTION NO. 275-07

BY: **SEAN BRENNAN**

A RESOLUTION URGING THE GOVERNOR AND
GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO FILL THE FINANCIAL
GAP CREATED BY THE FEDERAL G.I. BILL
EDUCATION BENEFIT FOR ALL OHIO U.S.
MILITARY VETERANS, AND DECLARING AN
EMERGENCY

WHEREAS, the very foundation of American democracy and the American way of life is owed to the sacrifices of American soldiers; and,

WHEREAS, few services are provided to returning soldiers to assist them with the difficult physical, mental and financial challenges they face when returning to civilian life; and,

WHEREAS, the Federal G.I. Bill falls short of covering the costs of a four year college degree; and,

WHEREAS, Ohio National Guard Veterans receive 100% tuition assistance, while Ohio's active duty Veterans are forgotten in state legislation; and,

WHEREAS, other states in the Union do provide educational assistance to all military Veterans, including Texas, which provides full tuition, room and board to its Veterans; and,

WHEREAS, Ohio is facing a surge of military Veterans returning home from active duty; and,

WHEREAS, there is a need for skilled workers in the State of Ohio; and,

WHEREAS, in recent years, education funding for state correction inmates has increased dramatically; and,

WHEREAS, many Veterans returning from active service find themselves at or near U.S. poverty level; and,

WHEREAS, the original G.I. Bill covered the costs of tuition, fees, books and provided Veterans with a living stipend; and,

WHEREAS, to become eligible for the G.I. Bill today, soldiers have to pay \$1,100 to \$1,800, the Bill covers only 60% to 70% of the average cost of a four-year education at a public college or university and is plagued with bureaucratic red tape; and,

WHEREAS, 95% of Veterans pay their non-refundable \$1,100 to \$1,800 contribution, while only 8% use the whole benefit and 30% do not use the G.I. Bill at all; and,

financial gap created by the Federal G.I. Bill Education Benefit for all Ohio U.S. Military Veterans, and declaring an emergency

WHEREAS, disabled Veterans are only entitled to as many months of G.I. Bill benefits as served in the military; and,

WHEREAS, every dollar spent on education benefits under the original G.I. Bill added \$7 to the national economy in terms of productivity, consumer spending and tax revenue; and,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PARMA, STATE OF OHIO:

Section 1. That this Council hereby urges the Honorable Governor Ted Strickland and the Honorable members of the Ohio General Assembly to seek a funding mechanism which fills the funding gap created by the Federal G.I. Bill Education Benefit and ensure an educational opportunity for all returning Ohio U.S. Military Veterans.

Section 2. That the Clerk of Council is hereby directed to forward a certified copy of this Resolution to Governor Ted Strickland and all Honorable members of the Ohio General Assembly.

Section 3. That it is found and determined that all formal actions of this Council concerning and relating to the adoption of this Resolution were adopted in an open meeting of this Council, and that all deliberations of this Council and any of its committees that resulted in such formal action were in meetings open to the public in compliance with all legal requirements.

Section 4. That this Resolution shall be in effect from and after the earliest period allowed by law.

PASSED: _____ PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL

ATTEST: _____ APPROVED: _____
CLERK OF COUNCIL

FILED WITH
THE MAYOR: _____ MAYOR, CITY OF PARMA, OHIO